

# THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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LEMUEL P. PADGETT



Lemuel P. Padgett of Tennessee is chairman of the exceedingly important house committee on naval affairs, and as such offered the amendments to the naval appropriation bill that were made necessary by the critical state of international affairs.

## U. S. ENVOY AT BERNE

State Department Gets Indirect Word From Gerard.

Ambassador Willard at Madrid Wires That Missing Diplomat is at Berne, Switzerland.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The state department has received a report that American Ambassador Gerard has reached Berne, Switzerland.

The arrival of Mr. Gerard in Berne was announced in a dispatch from him to Ambassador Willard at Madrid, who forwarded it without further information to the state department.

From European sources outside of Germany the government has learned that the German government actually did consider Mr. Gerard practically as a hostage until it received advices from Washington detailing the arrangements made for the safe departure of former Ambassador Bernstorff.

The state department had sent to Ambassador Willard a dispatch to be forwarded to Ambassador Gerard in Berlin, which would be of value only in case Mr. Gerard still were in the German capital.

Ambassador Willard replied he had received a dispatch from Mr. Gerard at Berne and wished instructions as to whether he should forward the department's dispatch to him there.

No direct report has been received from Berne from Mr. Gerard or from the American minister there, but word is expected during the day which will clarify the situation. The last dispatch from Mr. Gerard at Berlin was dated February 5.

## WILSON WANTS NATION UNIT

Only "Overt Act" of Clear-Cut Hostility by Germany Will Cause War.

Washington, Feb. 8.—President Wilson wants a perfectly united country behind him when he says the word that will cause congress to declare war.

It is for this reason that the insistence of the administration is that the overt act which brings war shall be one of clear-cut hostility and of unquestioned violation of our rights.

It can be said that the accumulation of proof is that no cabinet officer or other high official of the government believes that Germany is to exercise a restraining hand on her submarine commanders.

## BERNSTORFF DEPARTS FEB. 13

All German Officials, Including Consul, Sail on Frederick VIII—To Guard Special Car.

Washington, Feb. 6.—One week from today the whole corps of German officials in the United States, including Count and Countess von Bernstorff, the embassy suite and consuls from all parts of the country, will sail from New York for Germany.

Reservations for more than 200 persons have been engaged on the big Scandinavian liner Frederick VIII, leaving New York February 13 for Christiania.

## HOUSE FAVORS NAVY MEASURE

\$352,000,000 Bill Is Advanced in the Lower Body of Congress.

## CABINET DISCUSSES CRISIS

Nothing Has Occurred to Change Position of Government in the Submarine War—Rapid Progress Made in Preparation.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The house under stress of national emergency, almost unanimously approved Chairman Padgett's naval committee report, which appropriates \$352,000,000 for naval preparedness. The house acted in committee of the whole. This assures passage of the items.

Included in the appropriations are \$1,250,000 for machine guns, \$1,000,000 for anti-aircraft guns and ammunition at arsenals, \$5,581,174 for batteries for merchant auxiliaries, with \$7,281,941 for ammunition for the latter.

Another amendment to place the entire amount of the bill, subject to immediate use in the president's discretion, was also offered. Ordinarily the bill would take effect July 1.

## Cabinet Discusses Crisis.

At the close of a two-hour cabinet meeting it was indicated that nothing had happened to change the position of the American government in the submarine crisis. The state department, it was said, has received no official word that Germany might alter her policy.

Reports made to the cabinet told of rapid progress in carrying out precautionary measures directed by the various departments.

The statements of Foreign Secretary Zimmermann at Berlin served also to reflect the idea that Germany so far does not want actual war with the United States.

"Nothing has occurred to make the situation more serious or less serious," said one cabinet member. "I should say the situation is unchanged. The cabinet carefully reviewed preparedness work of the last few days and gave the view that the government is now on the road to being in good shape for future possibilities."

Postmaster General Burleson said before the meeting that he was not insisting on the fulfillment of contracts with owners of vessels leaving the United States and passing through the German submarine zone, for carrying American mails.

"I am leaving that to them," he said.

President Wilson had no engagements during the morning, but remained in his study working on questions connected with the international situation.

## Wilson Urges Amendment.

Chairman Padgett told the house that the aircraft amendment was urged by President Wilson and the secretaries of war and navy.

The Wright company, he said, practically are the only ones making airplanes in the United States and the purpose of the amendment is to have the government buy out the basic patents.

The house also added to the naval bill an appropriation of \$3,800,000 for 118 anti-aircraft guns and ammunition for defense of naval stations, on request of the navy department.

Shortly after Padgett's action Chairman Webb of the house judiciary committee reported favorably three war bills. They would prohibit fraudulent use or counterfeiting of government seals; punish attempted injury of vessels engaged in foreign commerce or of their cargoes or crews, and would prevent the disclosure of national defense secrets.

## Would Seize Patents.

The aircraft amendment would enable the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy "to obtain by purchase, condemnation, donation or otherwise, such basic patent or patents as they may consider necessary to the manufacture and development of aircraft."

Republican senators in conference decided to stand back of Senator Poinsett's bill for immediate construction of 20 fleet and 80 coast submarines at a cost of \$4,000,000.

## U. S. WILL DISAVOW SEIZURES

President Investigating Reports of Action of Federal Officials at Manila and Honolulu.

Washington, Feb. 8.—President Wilson is devoting himself to an investigation of the reported seizure of German ships in American ports by federal officials. It is found that such action has been taken at Manila, Honolulu and other places, it is learned, there will be a prompt disavowal by this government together with orders that the vessels be released forthwith.

## LOCAL EXCITEMENT



## SAILOR LONE SURVIVOR BRITISH LINER IS SUNK

Only One Saved From Relief Ship Lars Kruse.

All Others Believed Lost—Euphrates Crew Lands—Eleven Vessels Are Sent Down.

London, Feb. 8.—The admiralty announced that there is only one survivor of the crew of the Lars Kruse, relief ship. No others are known to have been saved.

The crew of the British steamer Euphrates has been landed at Gibraltar. The Euphrates probably was the first victim of Germany's new submarine policy. It had delivered a cargo to the Belgian relief commission and was returning to the United States in ballast when it was torpedoed.

The following ships were reported sunk in the last 24 hours:

Palmiter, 3,206 tons; British. Saxon-Britain, 1,337 tons; British; two of crew killed. Cliftonian, 4,313 tons; British. Azul, 3,074 tons; British. Rigel, 1,771 tons; Norwegian. Wasdale, 1,856 tons; Norwegian. Songdal, 2,880 tons; Norwegian. Thor II, 2,144 tons; Norwegian. Bravalla, 1,533 tons; Swedish. Port Adelaide, 8,181 tons; British. Cerera, 3,512 tons; Russian.

Chefoo, Feb. 8.—Three hundred persons suffered death by drowning or freezing on the Japanese steamer Hankaka, which ran aground during a terrific snowstorm near this city.

Through the heroic efforts of Captain Stampe, a Dutch officer connected with the Netherlands Harbor Improvement company, 75 of the passengers and crew who clung to the storm-swept ship for four days and survived the low temperature were rescued finally.

## WHITE STAR LINER IS SAFE

Steamer Lapland With Passengers, Including 130 Americans, Arrives at New York.

New York, Feb. 8.—Carrying 109 passengers, 130 of them Americans, the White Star liner Lapland arrived from England 48 hours overdue. The Lapland was caught in a 100-mile gale and blown off her course while waves 40 feet high dashed over her. On Saturday a wireless message was picked up announcing the American-German break, and that night a celebration was held on board, at which toasts were drunk to President Wilson and the United States.

## BANK LAYS OFF 15 GERMANS

New York Institution Continues Their Pay in Neutrality Plan During Break.

New York, Feb. 8.—Fifteen Germans employed in the foreign department of the Guaranty Trust company, one of the largest banking organizations in the country, have been given indefinite leave of absence with pay, it was announced, pending the outcome of the break between the United States and Germany. An officer explained that this action was taken "for reasons of neutrality," and that no reflection on the character of the men was meant.

## To "Blue" All Weapons.

Washington, Feb. 8.—No longer will the bayonets of Uncle Sam's khaki-clad troopers "flash and glisten in the sunlight." The war department announced that orders have been issued to "blue" all weapons.

Springfield.—Circuit Court is in session here with Judge W. L. Cook presiding and Gen. John B. Bowman looking after the state's interests.

## KING IN KHAKI OPENS BRITISH PARLIAMENT

Says "Threats of Further Outrages Serve to Steel Our Determination."

## POMP REMOVED FROM SITTING

Many Members Wear Army Uniforms—Royal Gallery Reserved for Wounded Soldiers—Seats Allotted to Correspondents.

London, Feb. 8.—The "Star-Spangled Banner," played by a band stationed outside parliament building, greeted the crowds awaiting the arrival of the king and queen.

London, Feb. 8.—King George in opening parliament said that the response of the allies to the invitation of the president of the United States outlined their aims as far as could be done at present. The king added:

"Threats of further outrages upon public order and the common right of humanity serve to steel our determination."

The opening of parliament, always picturesque, was shorn of much of its color and pomp. The peers wore none of the customary robes and regalia. The king was clad in a khaki uniform and all the lords and members of the house of commons who are entitled to wear either khaki or navy blue followed the example of the monarch.

## Royal Gallery Used by Wounded.

There were other innovations in keeping with the time of war. The imperial escort consisted of officers of the overseas fighting force. The royal gallery in the house of lords was set apart for wounded soldiers.

For the first time in the history of parliament the importance of the foreign press was recognized by the allotment of seats in the press gallery to correspondents from allied and neutral countries.

The weather was clear and crisp and as the royal procession passed from Buckingham palace to the house of parliament dense crowds lined the streets.

## Kink Talks of Germany's Offer.

King George spoke as follows:

"For the third time in succession I summon you to your deliberations in the midst of war. Certain overtures, of which you are aware, have been made by the enemy with a view to opening peace negotiations. Their tenor, however, indicated no possible basis of peace. My people throughout the empire and my faithful and heroic allies remain steadfastly and unanimously resolved to secure the just demands for reparation and restitution in respect for the past and guarantees for the future which we regard as essential to the progress of civilization.

## GERMANY DEFIANT IN SEA WAR

Foreign Secretary Says Kaiser Won't Modify Order and Terms Break "Astonishing."

Berlin, Feb. 6.—"There is no step backward. We have broken no promises. We hope President Wilson will warn Americans from the blockade zone."

Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, secretary of state for foreign affairs, had just been apprised of America's diplomatic break with Germany when he made the above comment in an interview to a representative of the Berliner Tageblatt.

"Astonishing," was Secretary Zimmermann's characterization of President Wilson's action.

In the next breath he made it clear that Germany will in no circumstances lift the U-boat blockade, or even modify it. He reiterated that unlimited submarine warfare was forced upon Germany by the entente's refusal of the Teutonic peace offer.

It was the only weapon left, he added, "in the fight for our existence against the entente's violations of international law." He concluded:

"America has denied us assistance. We made no unconditional promises to avoid unlimited submarine warfare. We have broken no promises. We hope President Wilson will warn Americans from the blockade zone. There is no step backward."

Knoxville.—When the bottom fell from an old boat in which he was rowing, Charles Bean, 16 years old, was drowned in McMahon's lake, near Knoxville.

MAJ. GEN. GEORGE BARNETT



Maj. Gen. George Barnett, commanding the marine corps, was summoned by wireless to Washington from Santo Domingo and left the island at once on the transport Hancock.

## ALIEN BILL NOW LAW

PASSED BY SENATE OVER PRESIDENT'S VETO BY VOTE OF 62 TO 19.

## JAP PROTEST IS IGNORED

It Now Becomes a Statute and Amounts to Excluding of the Yellow Race From the United States by Its Provisions.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The senate, by a vote of 62 to 19, repassed the immigration bill on Monday over the veto of the president, despite a warning from the state department that the Asiatic exclusion section might result in disturbing amicable relations with Japan. The measure, containing the literacy test, fought over for 20 years and vetoed by three presidents, now becomes a law.

## Phelan Was Converted.

Senator Phelan, one of those who voted to override the veto, voted against the original passage of the bill. Senators who voted for the original bill but would not vote to pass it over the veto were: Hollis, Johnson of South Dakota and Thompson, Democrats, and Sherman and Smith of Michigan, Republicans.

The administration already has successfully used its influence to prevent passage of antislavery bills in Idaho and Oregon objected to by Japan and a desire not to agitate relations with Japan now is evident in all administration quarters.

## U. S. VESSELS HELD IN PORT

Fleet of Standard Oil and Other Ships Tied Up at Docks—Sailings Indefinite.

New York, Feb. 8.—American ship owners showed an increasing disposition to hold their vessels in port until they receive some definite advice from Washington. After hearing that the state department had announced no decision on the question of giving protection to the American liner St. Louis, officers of the line said that the steamer would not leave New York for Liverpool. The sailing prospects of the St. Louis, it was said, are as indefinite now as when the German blockade was first declared.

The decision of the Standard Oil company to keep in port all their ships engaged in transatlantic service will affect about 73 vessels.

The New York of the American line, which left Liverpool February 3 for New York, reported back by wireless that it is now clear of the submarine war zone.

Jackson.—The work of the Jackson Visiting Nurse association was praised by Miss Florence E. Besley, supervisor of town and country nursing for the Red Cross society, in an address at the public library.

Chattanooga.—S. M. Hudlow, deputy fire marshal for East Tennessee, is convinced from his investigation that the fire which destroyed the Chattanooga manufacturing company's plant was of incendiary origin.